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A LIST OF THE ANCIENT IRISH MONUMENTAL STONES AT PRESENT EXISTING AT CLONMACNOISE.

BY THE REV. JAMES GRAVES.

THERE is no want so much felt by Irish archæologists, in common with, it may be added, those of England and Scotland, as lists or catalogues of monumental remains in particular localities, each list exhausting the matter to be found in any one spot, and capable of forming themselves, like the pieces of a dissected map, into one complete monumental description of the entire island. Such an undertaking would be too laborious for any one individual; but if, as opportunity offered, a little was done by one and another, each taking a district, or even a single burial-ground, the work would be *so far* advanced, and each additional contribution would serve to add one stone, at least, to the wished-for structure. The members of a Society like ours, extended widely over the face of Ireland, and possessing a Journal to chronicle their labours, might do much in the direction indicated; and I cannot help pointing out the manner in which Mr. Henry O'Neill, the author of the now well-known work on the "Ancient Crosses of Ireland," has enabled me to submit the following list of ancient Irish grave-stones at present existing at Clonmacnoise, as an example which might be profitably followed by those who are willing to co-operate in the work proposed. Having occasion to visit Clonmacnoise in the autumn of 1854, in order to make drawings and rubbings for his work on the "Ancient Crosses of Ireland," Mr. O'Neill employed an intelligent "native" to make rubbings with grass of the numerous ancient grave-stones for which the place is famed. It was astonishing, he said, how soon the man acquired a skill and proficiency in his task; he hunted out the stones with the greatest assiduity, cleared off all superincumbent rubbish, and produced fac-simile after fac-simile with the greatest accuracy. Subsequently, Mr. O'Neill went over each rubbing, comparing them with the originals, and tracing in, with a soft pencil, any line which the roughness of the material—a fissile sand-stone—rendered indistinct on the rubbing. Perfect accuracy had thus been secured; and when Mr. O'Neill kindly allowed me to make a catalogue of his rubbings, I was enabled to do so with as much confidence as if I had the originals before me.

I am aware of but two writers from whom information may be gleaned respecting the early grave-stones at Clonmacnoise: Dr. Petrie, and an anonymous author in the "University Magazine."¹

¹ Dr. O'Donovan has also given several of the inscriptions in his "Irish Grammar."

The eminent antiquary and artist first named has, doubtless, made drawings of all the early monuments now existing at Clonmacnoise, as well as of many not, alas! now to be seen there: for this latter supposition we have proof in the pages of his great work on the "Early Architecture of Ireland," in which he gives engravings of three not now in existence, or, at least, not comprised amongst Mr. O'Neill's rubbings. The first of these is the monument of Suibhne Mac Maelhumai, one of the three Irishmen who visited Alfred the Great in the year 891 (Petrie, pp. 324, 325). The engraving here given,



by permission of Messrs. Hodges and Smith, represents this fine slab, and affords a characteristic example of that species of cross described on the next page as of the Latin type, of two incised bands, with the circle at centre and semicircles at extremities all filled in with ornament.

The next of the missing monuments is a very fine cross of the Latin type; it exhibits a peculiarly designed ornament, not often found on other slabs, filling in the centre and semicircles. It commemorates Conaing Mac Conghail and Dubcen Mac Thadggan,



and is here figured.¹ Conaing, son of Conghail, King of Teffia, died A.D. 821. Dubcen has not been satisfactorily identified (Petrie, pp. 326, 327).

The third missing stone was an exceedingly curious one; we cannot, however, count it as entirely lost, as it is preserved in the private collection of Dr. Petrie, and we hope will finally find a resting place in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. It affords, as Dr. Petrie observes, "an instance of the simple customs of the times,

¹ Inserted by permission of Messrs. Hodges and Smith.

the stone having been originally a quern, or hand-mill stone," as will be seen from the subjoined cut. The inscription is simply the name



Sechnasach, whose identity has not been clearly ascertained (Petrie, pp. 339–40). Of the three others mentioned by Dr. Petrie, and still at Clonmacnoise, notice will be taken at the proper place in the list of monuments.

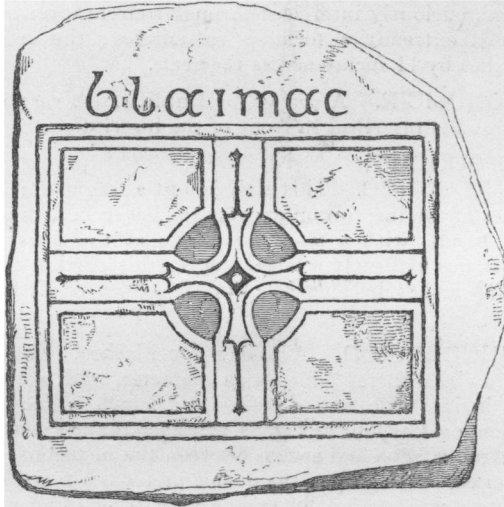
In a pleasingly written article on Clonmacnoise, Clare, and Arran ("University Magazine," vol. xli. pp. 79–95), the writer so well describes the peculiarly solemn and yet pleasing situation of the famous ecclesiastical remains under consideration, that I shall refer the reader to it (p. 80) for information, if it has been his ill fortune never to have made a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Ciaran the Son of the Carpenter; and merely content myself by giving the inscriptions noticed by the writer, which are as follow:—*Finnachty, Cholumb, Maelfinnia*, Findretich, Ingorm, Brigitte, Meloena, Lorcan, Fergal, *Maelfhetir, Gilla-giaran*, Eochaig, Comascache, Dathal, Ronain, *Martain, Daniel*, and Cellach; of these monuments, observed at Clonmacnoise in 1853, and eighteen in number, but *seven* (those printed in *italic*) were seen by Mr. O'Neill in 1854!

Having submitted the list made out from the rubbings to Dr. O'Donovan, he has, with his accustomed kindness, favoured me with some valuable information connected with it, for which I here beg to thank him. The Doctor observes:—"I saw many of these inscriptions in the year 1838, but there are some of which I have no recollection whatever. Mr. O'Neill has probably found some which were dug up since I was there."

With these prefatory remarks I shall proceed with the list of Mr. O'Neill's rubbings, which I have arranged alphabetically, and

numbered from 1 to 40, observing that, when I describe the incised cross on any slab as of *one band*, it is formed by *two* lines, when as of *two bands*, *four* lines were employed by the carver of the monument.

1. **blaimac.** A Greek (?) cross of one band within a parallelogram ; circle at intersection, enclosing a small Maltese cross.¹ The cross measures 1 foot 8 inches by 1 foot 5 inches across the arms,—slab defective at one side. See Petrie, p. 323, where the accompanying cut, here given by permission of Messrs. Hodges and Smith, will be found. “This,” says Dr. O’Donovan, “is probably the monument of



Blathmac, Abbot of Clonmacnoise, who died A. D. 891 ; the name signifies Florentius, from *blat*, a flower, and *mac*, a son.”

2. **OR AR CHUINDLESS.** A prayer for Chuindless. A Latin cross, nearly a fac-simile of the usual upright stone crosses, of the plainest kind ; the arms confined by a circle ; the cross measures 2 feet 1 inch by 1 foot across the arms. Dr. O’Donovan has given this inscription in his “Irish Grammar,” p. 43. Chuindless was Abbot of Clonmacnoise, and died in 724.
3. **OR DO CHOLUMBAN.** A prayer for Cholumban ; a portion of a large plain Latin cross of one band, with circle at intersection, and semicircles at extremities, all plain ; the cross measures 1 foot 11½ inches across the arms ; the slab is imperfect, and the lower limb of the cross gone. Dr. O’Donovan has printed this inscription, with a slight variation, in his “Grammar,” p. 43.

¹ Or perhaps it may be more correctly described as resembling the usual form of the upright crosses,—a circle

binding together the four members of the emblem of salvation at the intersection.

4. $\overline{\text{OR DO CLONDDEN.}}$ A prayer for Clondden. This inscription is not accompanied by a cross; the slab is imperfect.
5. $[\dots] \text{CONASSAC}[\dots]$. A fragment, with portions of a large plain cross.
6. $[\text{O}] \text{ahTC} \text{hI.}$ A Greek cross of one band, with circle at centre, all enclosed within a parallelogram; the cross measures 1 foot 4 inches by 1 foot across the arms. Dathi occurs frequently as a name in the Irish annals.
7. $\text{OR DO D} \text{AINEIL.}$ A prayer for Daniel. A small Greek cross of one band, curiously interlaced through a circle at centre, the interlacings at extremities forming semicircles; the cross measures $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 11 inches across the arms.
8. $\overline{\text{OR DO DUBLITIR.}}$ A prayer for Dublitir. A very small, plain, Latin cross is inscribed in front of the inscription.
9. $[\overline{\text{OR D}}] \text{o eud} \text{hais} [\dots] \text{CTAPNAC.}$ This slab is but a fragment; between the two lines of the inscription appears the lower limb of a Latin cross of two bands, with a plain semicircle at the lower extremity; the cross was evidently a large one, as this portion of it measures 1 foot $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. Eudos, Abbot of Kildare, died in 793.
10. $\overline{\text{OR AR FIACHRAICH.}}$ A prayer for Fiachra. On this slab is incised a circle 2 feet 7 inches in diameter, with a rich border of frets 3 inches wide, and a plain band 1 inch wide; within all a cross composed by four hexagons, arranged round a central octagon; the central octagon and spaces between the hexagons being richly ornamented. Altogether, the device presents a remarkable resemblance to a wheel-window, and is very interesting. Fiachra, of Eaglais-beg, or little church, at Clonmacnoise, died in 921.
11. $\overline{\text{OR AR FINDDAN.}}$ A prayer for Findan. A Greek cross of one band, the arms combined by a circle near the extremities; cross 1 foot 6 inches by 1 foot 4 inches across the arms. The slab, which is defective, was surrounded by a border of plain frets.
12. $\overline{\text{OR DO PINNACHTU.}}$ A prayer for Finnachtu. A simple Latin cross, 1 foot $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the arms. Dr. O'Donovan suggests that this may be the monument of the monarch of Ireland who reigned from 673 to 693, according to the Four Masters.
13. $\overline{\text{OR DO FLANNCHAD.}}$ A prayer for Flannchad. A Latin cross of one band, with circle at the intersection, and semicircles at the extremities, the former filled in with ornament, the latter plain; the cross measures 2 feet 4 inches by 1 foot $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the arms. Dr. Petrie (p. 324) gives the accompanying engraving¹ of

¹ This engraving is here given by permission of Messrs. Hodges and Smith.

this monument, and supposes it to have commemorated an Abbot of Clonmacnoise of that name, who died A. D. 1003.



14. [OR] DO POĠARTACH M̄ ✚ BROENAIN ✚. A prayer for Fogarty Mac Broenain. A Latin cross of one band, with circle at centre, and semicircles at the extremities, all plain; the cross measures 1 foot 11 inches by 1 foot 4½ inches across the arms. One of the small crosses is inscribed over a portion of the large one.
15. OR AR ĠILLA BIARAIN. A prayer for Gilla Biarain. A Latin cross of one band, with circle at intersection, and semicircles at extremities, all filled in with ornament; the cross measures 1 foot 9 inches by 1 foot 1 inch across the arms.
16. [OR] DO ĠILL CHRIST. A prayer for Gill Christ. A Latin cross of one band, with circle at intersection, and semicircles at extremities, filled in with ornament; cross, 2 feet 2 inches by 1 foot 2 inches across the arms; the slab is partially covered by the jamb of a pointed recess or niche in the east wall of the church-yard.
17. OT AR hUELRINE¹ [...]. A Latin cross of one band, the arms combined by a large circle; the cross measures 1 foot 7 inches by 1 foot across the arms; the slab is imperfect.
18. OROIT AR MAEL² A[...]. A prayer for Mael A[...]. A Latin cross of one band, the arms confined by a large narrow circle, all enclosed within a narrow border of frets; the cross measures 2 feet by 1 foot 5½ inches across the arms.
19. [OR] DO MAJEL CHIARAN. A prayer for Mael Chiaran. A Latin cross of one band, with large circle at intersection, and smaller

¹ The N in this word is doubtful; it may be h.

² The prefix mael, Dr. O'Donovan informs me, signifies *calvus*, bald; children baptized after the names of saints had

this prefix. Mac Firbis says that the Pagan Irish also made use of the same prefix, but that with them it meant *mal*, a chief or king, as, for instance, Mael-dubh, the Black King.

semicircles at extremities, the centre one filled in with ornament; the cross measures 2 feet $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 1 foot 7 across the arms; slab imperfect.

20. $\overline{\text{OR}} \}$ $\overline{\text{OIT}} \}$ DO mael CHIARAN. A prayer for Mael Chiaran. A Latin cross of two bands, with circle at intersection, and semicircles at the extremities, all filled in with ornament; the cross measures 1 foot $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 1 foot 2 inches across the arms; both the forms $\overline{\text{OR}}$ and $\overline{\text{OIT}}$ are cut on the stone.
21. $\overline{\text{OR}} \text{ DO mael PINNIA.}$ A prayer for Mael Finnia. A Latin cross of one band, with circle at centre, and semicircles at extremities; the former filled in with ornament; the cross measures 2 feet 3 inches by 1 foot 5 inches across the arms.
22. $[\overline{\text{OR}} \text{ O}] \text{O mael PINNIA.}$ A prayer for Mael Finnia. A Greek cross of two bands, with circle at centre, and triangles at extremities; all filled in with ornament; the cross measures 2 feet 8 inches by 1 foot $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; slab imperfect. Dr. Petrie (p. 322) has engraved¹ this fine monumental slab; when drawn by him it was



more perfect than it is at present. A Mael Finnia was Abbot of Clonmacnoise, and successor to St. Ciaran, the founder.

¹ This engraving is here given by permission of Messrs. Hodges and Smith.

23. *mael iohain eps.* A prayer for Bishop Mael Iohain (now Malone). The slab is plain, except two very small and plain crosses above inscription. Dr. O'Donovan has printed this inscription in his edition of the "Annals of the Four Masters," A. D. 1172, p. 4, *note f.*
24. *OR DO mael mhíchíl.* A prayer for Mael Mhichil. A Latin cross of one band, with circle at intersection, and semicircles at extremities, filled in with ornament; cross measures 2 feet by 1 foot 3 inches across the arms. See O'Donovan's "Irish Grammar," p. 43, for this inscription.
25. *[O]R DO mael patríc.* A prayer for Mael Patric. A Latin cross, the arms combined by a circle at centre, the extremities slightly widened; the cross measures 2 feet 9 inches by 1 foot 5 inches across the arms; slab slightly imperfect. See O'Donovan's "Irish Grammar," p. 43, for this inscription. Mael Patrick was Abbot of Clonmacnoise, and died in 883.
26. *OR DO mael phetir.* A prayer for Mael Phetir. A Latin cross of one band, with circle at intersection, and semicircles at extremities, all plain; the cross measures 1 foot 2 inches by 10 inches. Mael Peter was Abbot of Cluanfert-Molua, and died in 925.
27. *OR AR mael quiarain.* A prayer for Mael Ciaran. A Latin cross, with large circle combining arms; the cross measures 2 feet 2 inches by 1 foot 8½ inches across the arms. Mael Quiarain, or Ciaran, was Abbot of Terryglass, in Ormond, and died in 898.
28. *OR DO martanan.* A prayer for Martanan. A Latin cross of one band, with circle at intersection, and semicircles at extremities, not ornamented, except by a plain Greek cross in centre one; cross 1 foot 9 inches by 1 foot across the arms. Martanan is the diminutive of Martan.
29. *[OR DO]O muirgudeic.* A prayer for Muirgudeic. The slab is imperfect, showing the lower portion and part of the centre of a richly ornamented cross, altogether covered by interlaced work, deeply cut; the lower limb measures 2 feet, and the circle at intersection 1 foot 1 inch across; slab imperfect. Muiredach, Abbot of Clonmacnoise, died in 1025.
30. *OR DO odran haueolais.* A prayer for Odran O'Eolais. A Latin cross of one band; circle at intersection, and semicircles at extremities, filled in with ornament; cross measures 3 feet 7 inches by 1 foot 7½ inches across the arms; this is a fine specimen both as to the cross and inscription.
31. *OR DO th[ad]gan.* A prayer for Thadgan. A Latin cross of two bands, with circle at intersection, and semicircles at extremities, filled in with ornament; cross 3 feet 2 inches by 2 feet 1½ inch across the arms. See Petrie, p. 326,—this cross is a remarkably fine example. Dr. O'Donovan thinks this Thadgan was probably ancestor of the Muintir Tadgain, or Foxes, of the barony of Kilocoursy, King's County.

32. $\overline{[OR]}$ DO $\tau\eta\upsilon\alpha\theta\alpha\lambda$. A prayer for Toole. A simple cross, 9 inches by 7 inches across the arms; slab defective; part of cross wanting. Thuathal was Bishop of Clonmacnoise, and died in 969.
33. OROIT AR
 $\tau\eta\upsilon\text{RCAIN}$
 $\lambda\alpha\varsigma\ \alpha\text{N}\ \text{DE}$
 $\text{RNO}\ \text{IN}$
 $[C]\text{hROSSA}$ A prayer for Thurcain, by whom was made this cross. The slab on which this is cut lies at the mound situated between the burying-ground and the Nunnery, where tradition says that St. Kieran's maid-servant was buried in punishment, because she fretted after the saint's cow that was lost. The cross alluded to in the inscription is lost, the slab being imperfect.
34. $\tau\upsilon\text{CAN}\zeta\alpha\lambda$. A Greek cross of one band, within a parallelogram; the arms combined by a circle at centre, within which they form a Maltese cross; the whole enclosed by a border of frets; slab imperfect.
35. mael $\overline{michell}$. This inscription is not accompanied by a cross.
36. mael $\tau\eta\text{INE}$. This inscription is not accompanied by a cross.
37. $\overline{OR}\ \text{O}$ A small Latin cross of one band, with circle at intersection, and semicircles at extremities, all filled in with ornament; imperfect; measures $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the arms.
38. Inscription illegible. A Greek cross of one band, within a parallelogram; measures 1 foot $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch by 11 inches; slab imperfect.
39. A Greek cross of one band, within a parallelogram. Measures 1 foot $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch by $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the arms; no inscription; slab imperfect.
40. A Latin cross of one band, without inscription at present; large circle at intersection, and semicircles at extremities of arms and upper limb; lower limb terminated by a square; centre circle encloses a plain cross; the cross measures 2 feet 2 inches by 1 foot 2 inches across the arms.

I am informed by Dr. O'Donovan that he saw several other inscriptions at Clonmacnoise, which are not given in this list. They are now probably carried away to some church-yard on the other side of the Shannon,—a favourite practice with the Munster-men across the river; or, perhaps, they enrich the museum of some “land-louping” tourist.

So far as Mr. O'Neill's rubbings have enabled me, I have now laid before the Society a list of the early Irish grave-stones at Clonmacnoise. I wish the catalogue were more perfect, but this could only be effected by the co-operation of Dr. Petrie and Dr. O'Donovan; and great would be the boon to the Irish archæologist if either or both of these eminent men would complete the list. It were also to be desired that illustrations of all the more interesting varieties of cross-slab should be given, but the cost would far exceed the funds at the disposal of the Committee; and it rests with the mem-

bers to say whether this desirable work shall be undertaken or not. In the meantime, the thanks of the Society are due to Messrs. Hodges and Smith for the use of Dr. Petrie's admirably executed illustrations of six of these ancient monumental remains.

ON ACOUSTIC VASES AND OTHER RELICS DISCOVERED IN RESTORATIONS LATELY MADE IN THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, YOUGHAL.

BY E. FITZGERALD, YOUGHAL.

THE history and antiquities of this ecclesiastical foundation have been ably and amply set forth by the Rev. Samuel Hayman, in the "Transactions" for May, 1854. Since the publication of his paper the old church has passed through the wholesome ordeal of a skilful pruning, so that much of the gangrene growth of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries has been carefully cut away,¹ and a noble effort made towards a complete restoration to its original beauty.

In restoring the ruined choir (see sketches, pp. 99, 117, *ante*), it was necessary to have the old plastering hacked off the walls; whilst engaged at this, the workmen found, at about 25 feet from the ground, five holes, from 3 to 6 inches in diameter, at irregular distances, in the north wall, towards the west end. When viewing this discovery from the ground, the first impression on my mind was, that they were the opes in which originally flag-staffs were placed, and from which probably of old the Geraldine banners floated proudly over their oaken stalls, as this structure (the choir) was the work of one of that race, Thomas, eighth Earl of Desmond, in 1464. However, on closer examination, I found in the front of each ope a perforated piece of free-stone, of about 4 inches in thickness, inside of which the lips or mouths of earthenware vessels made their appearance. On introducing the hand and arm, I found they were complete vases of burnt clay, lying on their sides, perfectly empty; some were nicely glazed, and others without any sign of ever having been so. I was most anxious to have a few of them taken out for further examination, thinking that their exterior sides might have been ornamental, and had the stone-work from two cut away to about half their depth, but found they were so firmly built on and

¹ This, indeed, seems to have been the era of spoliation, and when the building style reached its climax.